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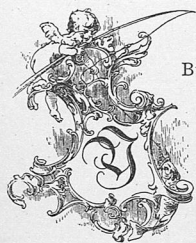
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## REMODELING THE COMMONPLACE HOME.—V.

## THE SMOKING-ROOM.

BY EDWARD LEE YOUNG,  
ARCHITECT.



THE last article of this series illustrated the remodeling of a dining-room, and I am disposed to show the possibilities of a two-story butler's pantry, but refrain, and must ask you to ascend with me the remodeled staircase, which was shown in the February number of

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER, to the second floor, and, turning to the left, enter the "hall room," from whose one window you can look down upon the street.

But step back to the door by which you entered and examine the room.

"Uninteresting," say you. To be sure: a blank wall on one side, and the opposite wall only relieved by the one door to the adjoining room.

Entirely unsatisfactory in its present state and proportions; anything but a habitable room in its present dreary, monotonous commonplaceness.

In sketch No. 1, called "before remodeling," the room is not overdrawn as to its proportions, for a narrow room is always too high for its width, particularly if, to give good proportions to more important rooms on the same floor, the height between floor and ceiling is settled upon accordingly.

The day will come when every room will be drawn complete in itself, with good proportions carefully considered.

In determining the treatment of this room before starting to remodel, several things must be considered, as you know.

The adjoining room is the sitting-room, and this room would make a good "smoking-room." "Just the thing," and instead of being led into the conventional Oriental treatment, why not the cabin of a steam yacht?

See how easily this treatment changes the proportions of the room into a cosy retreat, at the same time secures perfect ventilation.

The new ceiling is nearly two feet below the old one, made up of "carlins" (cross-beams) of light wood and thin strawboard backing, bent to shape of carlins, as the deck of a cabin would be.

In the centre of the room there is a skylight of nautical construction. This skylight, with movable windows, ventilates to the outside air.

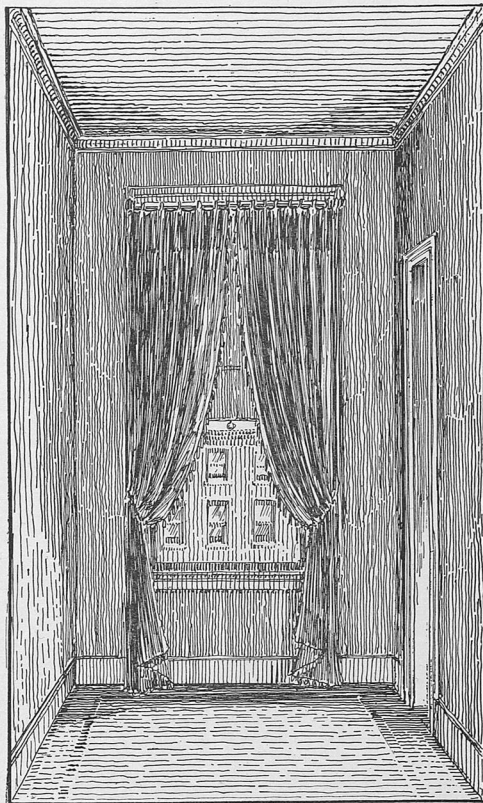
The window is covered, and made smaller by a screen with leaded glass windows each side of the false one (which is really a marine painting to carry out the scheme).

The dead lights or port lights are mirror doors to lockers.

The divan, running the whole length of the room on outside, is a comfortable, convenient lounging place.

I called it a "smoking-room" in preference to calling it a "den," for I think it the more appropriate name "Den" sounds dark and dismal; it suggests the presence of a "bear" in the house.

I feel quite sure that there are many who would prefer some other treatment for a smoking-room, and, looking on this with uninteresting eyes, will say, "A deception throughout," and, while this is true, there are many rooms that are only partially deceptive in their efforts. These latter don't deceive in the least, and their semi-deceptions are often unsatisfactory for that reason.



THE SMOKING-ROOM. BEFORE REMODELING.

In our early days we boys could, by the aid of our imagination and a basket of clothes-pins, outline the shape of a ship on the green grass, and by outlining a hole in the ground for a cabin, secure the utmost seclusion, and none of the crew could see us until, coming on deck, we would give our orders in a deep voice, sending the crew aloft, and work the ship through the mountainous waves that we could feel, for every man had his "sea legs" on, and keeping the motion of the deck as the ship rose to a sea.

Ah! those were great days, when we were pleased to deceive ourselves into believing that we saw it all. "Do we like to deceive ourselves now?" I think so, just a little bit, and one room in the house could be given up to it.

Now, just imagine a friend calling on you, and after dinner ascending to this room. As soon as his first surprise was over, the room would recall many of the pleasant idle hours spent in the smoking-room of a steamer while crossing to or from Europe, and a subject of conversation or a rare half-forgotten story would be the result.

"The theatre" used to be the general subject of conversation, then it became the individual actors in them, now it's "bicycles," but when a man gets a chance to relate his steamer experience, it is the next thing to making another trip, particularly if all the accessories

are in sight to assist the imagination and recall the half forgotten facts.

Of course the room could have been otherwise treated with equal success, and an entirely different train of thoughts be awakened—for instance, a slab long cabin could have been created, with rough bark walls, bear-skin couch, rude bench table, flour-barrel chairs and the like. Then the camping days so long ago, how the guide shot the "buck," and so on, would be the subject of the stories that would seem to go with the smoking of a cigar or pipe.

But "the deception" is always there, and we want it there. It hurts nobody, and carries with it a deal of comfort and pleasure.

The cost of this kind of a room is entirely in the ceiling, and even that may be built for a small sum.

The wood should be painted or enameled ivory color, with mahogany mouldings around the doors and windows and top of seat, and stuff wainscot.

The walls above the wainscot should be wood, or something looking like wood, with enameled finish.

A smoking-room should above all things be well ventilated, and to do so thoroughly the ventilation must be made from the top.

In the ceiling of this room, as you will see, there is placed a "deck-light" or sky-light, as described earlier in this article; by opening these windows and the top part of the outside window, the smoke will at once move to the outside air.

These windows could be arranged to work automatically with an attachment working from the side of the room. Also electric lights could be placed above the sky-light and a soft light given the room. Many other interesting effects could be produced at small cost.



THE SMOKING-ROOM. AFTER REMODELING.

## SEEN IN THE SHOPS.

BY ELLEN DREW.



ENIMS still hold their own. Various changes have been rung on this line, but its popularity has never waned. Just now it makes a new bid for favor, in the embroidered portières, couch covers, sofa pillows and roll cases that are the newest designs seen in this domestic fabric. It cannot be purchased by the yard, as it comes just in the proper lengths for either purpose. The embroidery on the portière runs down one side and across the bottom; it is done in white, and the pattern is a trifle heavier in the corner. Those for a couch have the embroidery all around the edge, forming an attractive border. Both of these articles have a finish of fringe. The denim comes in all the prevailing shades, blue, pink, red, sage green, old rose and Spanish brown. Some of the articles are further enhanced with a geometrical design in white, applied on in the middle, and on this is a little outline design of the same color as the body of the material. Screens also come to match all of these. Couch covers are \$6.75 and the portières \$2.95 per pair.

Sofa cushions intended for the porch, hammock, yachts, etc., are usually quite gay, the brilliant coloring being permissible out-of-doors. The upholsterers are making up the gayest plaids imaginable into these pillows. They resemble the gaudy bandana of the old Southern negro. However, it is a new fabric and is called Madras, and is similar to Scotch gingham. The colors are fast, and they form one of the most serviceable and inexpensive of sofa pillows. They are finished simply with a very fine hemmed ruffle of the same goods. The material comes in two-yards length, at \$1.20, or made up, but of not so good a quality, for \$1.00.

Any of the regulation prices of chamber or sitting-room furniture may be had now in white enamel, entirely devoid of ornamentation. This is so that the owner, if an aspiring artist, can decorate at will. One set seen was painted with old Dutch Holland scenes in Delft blue. This idea may be of practical value to many others of a similar ambition.

A lovely sofa pillow recently seen in a Colonial house, where the colors of the room were confined to white and gold, was fashioned very easily by the deft hands of the mistress. The pillow was covered with white silk, a thin, soft quality, and stretched over this was a netting loosely crocheted with white silk. At regular intervals gold beads glistened, giving the requisite touch of color. A heavy, white silk cord edged it as a finish.

Renaissance lace is the accepted style for all purposes where white lace is used—window curtains, table linen and the covers for dressing-cases and stands. Window curtains with this lace may be had from \$6.75 up to \$275.00 per pair.

Some new designs in silkolines, a cheap fabric somewhat resembling China silk, are quite pretty and stylish, and in excellent tones of color. These are universally used for light summer draperies, and are so cheap that they can be discarded at the end of the season without violating one's conscience.